

Applicant Name	Fort Peck Tribes
Project Name	Fort Peck 58 Main Check Structure Replacement for Water Management

Project Abstract

The Fort Peck Tribes and Fort Peck Water Users Association are working on improving the Fort Peck Irrigation Project. The proposed project will address issues of water conservation, water management, and farm land preservation in the area, downstream from the 58 Main Check Structure.

Check Structure 58 is in immediate danger of failure so it is not being used. The 58 Main Canal Spill Structure is being used as the check, leading to excessive amounts of spill water. Based on the information provided by the Fort Peck Water Users and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) ditch riders, approximately 3,000 acres depend on the main canal structure and facilities. Without a properly functioning 58 Main Check Structure, it is nearly impossible to divert water down adjacent laterals. In addition, continued use of the spill structure as a check structure will most likely lead to failure of the spill.

Four objectives are addressed by this improvement:

- Conservation of irrigation water;
- Increase of water supply for irrigation-classified tracts without suitable water supply;
- Supply of water for idle irrigation tracts; and
- Improved management of 58 main canal facilities.

The proposed project is an important part of the improvement of the Fort Peck Irrigation System. Better management and increased water supply will allow farmers to retain beneficial use of irrigated lands. This will generate income from farming, which, in turn, has the potential to stimulate the area's economy.